

# NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## FACT SHEET

(pursuant to NAC 445A.236)

**Applicant:** TM Bench Ranch - Valley  
Thomas and Meridee Wiley  
12830 Carson Highway  
Fallon, Nevada 89406

**Permit:** NEV2003503

**Location:** 12830 Carson Highway  
Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada 89406  
Latitude: 39° 30' 14" N  
Longitude: 118° 59' 33" W  
Township 19 N, Range 27 E, Sections 18 and 19 MDB&M

**General:** The Applicant proposes to land apply domestic septage and grease trap material provided by Valley Septic, Sewer, and Drain to forty acres of nutrient deficient agricultural land at the 110-acre TM Bench Ranch, a.k.a. Tom Wiley Farm, west of Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada. Valley Septic, Sewer, and Drain is a licensed septage hauler and is required to maintain this license to transport domestic septage and grease trap material to the facility.

The Applicant recently had a permit, NEV2002504, for the beneficial use of domestic septage and grease trap material collected by A-1 Septic and Drain Service transferred from David L. McCarter to the Applicant. The Division is requiring separate permits for each source (company) of domestic septage and grease trap material applied to a site. Other permits may be issued for the same activity at this site.

The site is owned by Thomas A. and Meridee R. Wiley and is flood irrigated. The septage must be screened to remove solids over  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch in size before the septage can be land applied. The septage must be incorporated into the soil within 6 hours of being land applied. A crop must be planted to uptake the nitrogen that is contained in the septage within one year of application. The application rate of domestic septage will be based on the nitrogen needs of the crop to be planted. To reapply domestic septage and grease trap material to cropland, the crop must be harvested. Grazing does not meet this requirement.

The former operator of this site installed a 3,000-gallon, steel, underground storage tank under NEV2002504 at the beneficial use site to store the domestic septage and grease trap material during inclement weather and when the incorporation equipment is not operational. A synthetic liner was required to provide secondary containment. The domestic septage and grease trap material is screened upon entering the tank.

The Applicant has determined that the 3,000-gallon tank does not provide adequate storage volume and has proposed installing two 10,000-gallon, steel, above ground storage tanks. The 3,000-gallon tank must be removed from the site before the second 10,000-gallon tank is put into service. The maximum permitted storage volume at this site will be 20,000 gallons.

**Receiving Water Characteristics:** The groundwater is reported to be at a depth of approximately 60 feet below ground surface in the Applicant's on-site domestic supply well. The former NEV2002504 Permittee reported the groundwater to be of good quality with the following concentrations: total dissolved solids 492 mg/L, nitrate 0.1 mg/L, chloride 19 mg/L, and a pH of 8.07 SU. Based on a single analysis, the shallow groundwater at this site meets all drinking water standards, except the secondary standard for manganese.

Groundwater monitoring is not required for domestic septage beneficial use sites.

**Characteristics:** Only domestic septage and grease trap material may be land applied. Domestic septage is defined as either liquid or solid material removed from a septic tank, cesspool, portable toilet, Type III marine sanitation device, or similar treatment works that receives only domestic sewage. Domestic septage does not include liquid or solid material removed from a septic tank, cesspool, or similar treatment works that receives either commercial wastewater or industrial wastewater.

**Flow:** The application rate, in gallons of domestic septage and grease trap material per acre per year, shall be based on the nitrogen needs of the crop to be grown. If the crop is Sudangrass at a yield of 10 tons per acre, as proposed, with an annual nitrogen demand of 328 pounds per acre, domestic septage and grease trap material may be applied at a maximum rate of 126,000 gallons per acre per year. Permits for the land application of domestic septage do not include flow limitations.

**Proposed Septage Use Requirements:**

-Septage use must meet all of the requirements of 40CFR section 503, Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge.

-Domestic septage shall not be applied to land if the depth to groundwater is less than 3 feet.

-Domestic septage shall not be applied to land within 100 feet of any public roadway or within 600 feet of any residence.

-Domestic septage shall not be applied within 200 feet of a drinking water well not defined as a public water system.

-Domestic septage shall not be applied within 1,000 feet of a public water system well.

-Domestic septage shall not be applied within 50 feet of any irrigation or drainage ditch, swale, intermittent stream, creek, river, wetland, lake, or other surface water.

-All land application sites shall be fenced and posted with warning signs stating "DOMESTIC SEPTAGE APPLIED, NO TRESSPASSING".

-Equipment to incorporate the domestic septage into the soil shall be on the site and in operating condition before septage is land applied.

-Food crops shall not be grown on land that has had domestic septage applied within the past five (5) years.

-The domestic septage shall be land applied at a uniform rate by means of a spray bar, splash plate, or similar method approved by the Division.

-The domestic septage shall be screened through a ¾-inch or finer screen to remove solids from the septage prior to land application. Solid material removed from the septage shall be disposed of in an approved landfill.

-Grease trap material shall be mixed with domestic septage at a rate of one part grease trap material to at least three parts domestic septage, by volume, before it is land applied.

-All tanks used for storage at the beneficial use site shall be permanently labeled to identify the contents of the tank, the Permittee, the Permittee's phone number, and the Permittee's address.

-All tanks storing domestic septage shall be inspected daily for leakage. Documentation of the inspections shall be maintained in a bound logbook at the facility. Leaking tanks shall be immediately evacuated and not returned to service until all leaks have been repaired.

**Schedule of Compliance:** The Permittee shall implement and comply with the provisions of the schedule of compliance after approval by the Administrator, including in said implementation and compliance, any additions or modifications which the Administrator may make in approving the schedule of compliance. The Permittee shall implement and/or execute the following scheduled compliance requirements:

- a. Upon the effective date of this permit, the Permittee shall achieve compliance with the reuse limitations.
- b. The Permittee shall submit reports illustrating compliance or noncompliance with specified compliance dates within 14 days of any respective, scheduled compliance date.

- c. Within sixty (60) days of the permit effective date, the Permittee shall submit an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual covering the use of the domestic septage to the Division for review and approval. If all domestic septage and grease trap material is handled and applied with the same procedures, the Permittee may submit four copies of a single O & M Manual for permits NEV2002504, NEV2003502, NEV2003503, and NEV2003505.
- d. At least forty-eight (48) hours prior to transporting any storage tank to the beneficial use site, the Permittee shall notify the Division.
- e. At least forty-eight (48) hours prior to removing any storage tank from the beneficial use site, the Permittee shall notify the Division.
- f. Prior to transporting any domestic septage or grease trap material generated outside of Churchill County to the facility, the Permittee shall submit to the Division a copy of the County issued Special Use Permit authorizing the land application of this material.

**Rationale for Permit Requirements:** Permit requirements are necessary to protect the public health and prevent the land application site from becoming a public nuisance and a source of groundwater pollution.

**Proposed Determination:** The Division has made the tentative determination to issue the proposed permit for a five (5) year period.

**Procedures for Public Comment:** The Notice of the Division's intent to issue a permit authorizing the facility to discharge to the groundwater of the State of Nevada subject to the conditions contained within the permit, is being sent to the **Lahontan Valley News/Fallon Eagle Standard** for publication. The notice is being mailed to interested persons on our mailing list. Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed permit can do so in writing for a period of 30 days following the date of publication of the public notice in the newspaper. The date and time by which all written comment must be postmarked or transmitted to the Division via facsimile or e-mail is 5:00 P.M. June 6, 2003. The comment period can be extended at the discretion of the Administrator.

A public hearing on the proposed determination can be requested by the applicant, any affected State, any affected interstate agency, the Regional Administrator of EPA Region IX or any interested agency, person or group of persons. The request must be filed within the comment period and must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reasons why a hearing is warranted. Any public hearing determined by the Administrator to be held must be conducted in the geographical area of the proposed discharge or any other area the Administrator determines to be appropriate. All public hearings must be conducted in accordance with NAC 445A.238.

The final determination of the Administrator may be appealed to the State Environmental Commission pursuant to NRS 445A.605.

Prepared by: Bruce Holmgren  
April 2003